

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE AIRPORT COMMISSION**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Airport Commission convened in a regular session on Thursday, June 10, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall. Due to the absence of Chairperson Donnellan, Vice-Chairperson Fitch led the meeting.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Dingman, Hsiao, Orpe, and
Vice-Chairperson Fitch.

Absent: Commissioners Jacobsen, Tymczyszyn, and Chairperson
Donnellan.

Also Present: Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian.

MOTION: Commissioner Dingman moved to grant Commissioners Jacobsen, Tymczyszyn, and Chairperson Donnellan excused absences for the June 10, 2010 Commission meeting. Commissioner Hsiao seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

3. FLAG SALUTE

John Bailey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF AGENDA POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Dingman, seconded by Commissioner Orpe, moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioners Jacobsen, Tymczyszyn, and Chairperson Donnellan).

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. MINUTES OF MAY 13, 2010

Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian offered the following correction to the May 13, 2010 minutes: Page 2, Item 6d, line 3: "He stated that aircraft are flying further west..."

MOTION: Commissioner Dingman moved to approve the May 13, 2010 Airport Commission meeting minutes as amended. Commissioner Hsiao seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioners Jacobsen, Tymczyszyn, and Chairperson Donnellan).

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1 AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

6A. Vice-Chairperson Fitch encouraged Commissioners to fly their flags on Flag Day, June 14, 2010.

6B. Vice-Chairperson Fitch announced the last budget hearing on June 15, 2010 in Council Chambers.

7. ACTION ITEMS

7A. CONSIDERATION OF HELICOPTER ROUNDTABLE MEETING FORMAT

Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian provided background on the material of record and requested that the Commission review and recommend a meeting structure for a helicopter roundtable discussion. He presented the following meeting format for consideration:

- 1) Conduct a helicopter roundtable discussion at Torrance Airport on July 22, 2010.
- 2) Meeting to host 20-25 people, including concerned citizens, helicopter operators, FAA staff, PHPA members, Airport Commission Chair, Coast Guard, and City staff.
- 3) City of Torrance will select facilitator to conduct meeting.
- 4) Bring findings from roundtable discussion back to the Commission for public review and comment.

Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian reported that the City has an existing contract with South Bay Center for Dispute Resolution and the representative, Mr. Lance Widman, is felt to be the most qualified to facilitate the helicopter discussion. He further stated that more than one meeting may become necessary to resolve all issues raised.

Responding to Commissioner Hsiao's inquiry, he stated that participants are being limited because more could be accomplished with a smaller group. He noted that no one would be turned away and would have the opportunity to participate during the question and answer period, adding that the Airport Meeting Room holds 70 people.

Vice-Chairperson Fitch stated that Airport Commissioners and presidents of affected homeowners associations should be invited, even as observers, so they are aware of what is being discussed.

Hope Witkowsky, Mesa Street, expressed concern that the Airport is very limiting to people who want to attend and received clarification from staff that the event is not being advertised.

In response to her inquiry, Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian stated that "concerned citizens" would include residents who have submitted concerns to the City.

Richard Root, Via Buena Ventura, distributed a June 4, 2010 "Mandatory Regulations to Curb Helicopter Noise Announced" from antonnews.com. He discussed the decision to change a voluntary agreement between the community and helicopter operators in Long Island, New York to mandatory regulations due to lack of compliance. He stated that he hoped the roundtable discussion would be an open and transparent process and that using graphics would be helpful.

Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian stated that having a small group participate is the most efficient way to get things accomplished and that findings would be brought back to the Commission so the public would have an opportunity to provide commentary.

Joe Arciuch, Kathryn Avenue, stated that 25-30 years ago there were cooperative meetings between homeowners and pilots run by the FAA and anyone was welcome to participate.

In response to his inquiry, Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian stated that City staff is deciding which "concerned citizens" to invite.

Don Clouch, 238th Street, related his understanding that the City already has noise, height, and route restrictions. He stated that a roundtable of violators is being planned while at the same time limiting participation of citizens who are affected.

Responding to his inquiry, Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian stated that the meeting is not costing the City anything out of pocket and that it has an existing contract with South Bay Center for Dispute Resolution.

John Bailey, Walnut Street, President, Southeast Torrance Homeowners Association, stated that the proposed facilitator has not been completely unbiased in some of his previous actions and recommended that staff look into his background. He maintained that he would feel more comfortable if the Commission, or subcommittee, handled the meetings and received clarification from staff that any decisions made at the roundtable would be non-binding.

Hope Witkowsky stated that the name South Bay Center for Dispute Resolution has negative connotations, that a larger room may be necessary, and that she has had positive experiences with Mr. Widman. She recommended that only roundtable participants speak, with audience members writing their questions on cards, and to accept Mr. Widman as facilitator for at least the first meeting.

When Vice-Chairperson Fitch suggested that Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian be the facilitator, he responded that he does not feel qualified and that a professional should be used.

Commissioner Orpe stated that a small group is more efficient, that he personally does not feel technically able to discuss helicopter issues with experts, and that findings should be brought back to the Commission for resolution.

Commissioner Hsiao inquired if there has ever been a roundtable discussion before and Mr. Bailey explained meetings of the Sun Cal Advisory Group.

In response to Commissioner Hsiao's inquiry, Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian stated that the goal of the roundtable is to have resolution between helicopter operators and residents of the community. He stated that current Letters of Agreement between the City, FAA, and helicopter operators need to be reviewed to see if they are still valid.

MOTION: Vice-Chairperson Fitch moved to concur with staff recommendation with amendments as follows:

- 1) Conduct a helicopter roundtable discussion at Torrance Airport on July 22, 2010.
- 2) Meeting to host 20-25 people, including concerned citizens, helicopter operators, FAA staff, PHPA members, Airport Commission Chair and one other Airport Commissioner, Robinson Helicopter, homeowner association presidents of affected areas, Coast Guard, and City staff.
- 3) City of Torrance will select facilitator to conduct the first meeting.

- 4) Bring findings from roundtable discussion back to the Commission for public review and comment.
- 5) Meeting to be open to the public.

Commissioner Orpe seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioners Jacobsen, Tymczyszyn, and Chairperson Donnellan).

8. INFORMATION ITEMS

8A. AERONAUTICAL OPERATIONAL INFORMATION UNDER THE PURVIEW OF THE GENERAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Vice-Chairperson Fitch noted that the following reports for June 2010 were included in agenda material: Hangar and Tie down Rental Status, Ongoing Projects, June 2010 Meeting Room Schedule, Hangar Waiting List, Events Requiring Emergency Response, and Airfield Operations Status.

Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian distributed a revised Summary of Changes to Hangar Waiting List.

Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian reviewed Report 2, Ongoing Projects, and reported that hangar electrical upgrades have again been halted until contractors have enough equipment on site and that they are waiting on a resolution from Southern California Edison.

8B. LAND MANAGEMENT REPORT – AERONAUTICAL -- None

8C. NOISE ABATEMENT QUARTERLY REPORT

Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian noted that the Noise Abatement Quarterly Report for January 1, 2010 to March 31, 2010 was included in the material of record.

9. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2 – None.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:19 p.m., Commissioner Dingman moved to adjourn the meeting to Thursday, July 8, 2010 in the West Annex meeting room at 7:00 p.m. Commissioner Hsiao seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Vice-Chairperson Fitch so ordered.

Approved as Submitted July 8, 2010 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
